In the claims:

Claims 1-22 cancelled.

23. (Previously presented) A spark plug for an internal combustion engine with a combustion chamber, comprising a shell (12), an insulator (16) located in the shell and composed of a sintered ceramic material, as well as a center electrode (18) heat-fused in an insulator, and a terminal stud (22) that have an electrically conductive connection with each other and are located in the insulator,

wherein a cermet (28) abuts the center electrode, wherein a ceramic phase of the cermet is composed of the same or a similar material as the insulator, wherein a metallic phase of the cermet is composed of a material having good electrical conductivity, and wherein the cermet is disposed between the center electrode and the terminal stud,

wherein a burn-off resistor (30) is located in the interior of the insulator, and wherein a conductive phase of the burn-off resistor is composed of carbon.

24. (previously presented) The spark plug according to Claim 23, wherein the ceramic phase is composed of Al_2O_3.

25. (previously presented) The spark plug according to Claim 24, wherein the ceramic phase comprises sintering auxiliary agents.

26. (previously present d) The spark plug according to Claim 23, wherein the metallic phase is composed of a metal from the platinum group that is stable at sintering temperature.

27. (previously presented) The spark plug according to Claim 26, wherein the metallic phase is composed of platinum or a platinum alloy.

28. (previously presented) The spark plug according to Claim 23, wherein a ceramic granulated material is used to produce the cermet (28), wherein granules of the granulated material are provided with a surface coating of the material having good electrical conductivity.

29. (previously presented) The spark plug according to Claim 28, wherein the granulated material has a granule size in a range between 90 µm and 150 µm.

30. (Previously presented) The spark plug according to Claim 6 28, wherein the material having good electrical conductivity is pulverized, and the individual particles are less than 10 µm in size.

Claim 31 cancelled.

32. (previously presented) The spark plug according to Claim 23, wherein the center electrode (18) has a diameter between 0.3 mm and 0.8 mm.

Claim 33 cancelled.

34. (Previously presented) A method for producing a spark plug using the following steps:

- pressing a ceramic material to form an insulator (16) that is provided with a location hole (36) for a center electrode;
- inserting a center electrode (18) in the location hole;
- providing a cermet between the center electrode and a terminal stud of the insulator;
- filling and compacting a ceramic granulated material in the insulator, wherein granules of the granulated material are provided with a coating of a material having good electric conductivity , in the insulator and compacted;
- sintering the insulator;
- locating a burn-off resistor (30) in the interior of the insulator; and
- providing a conductive phase of the burn-off resistor of carbon.

35. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein Al_2O_3 is used as the ceramic material.

36. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 35, wherein sintering auxiliary agents are used.

37. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 35, wherein Al_2O_3 is used as the material for the insulator.

38. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein a metal from the platinum group that is stable at sintering temperature is used as the material having good electrical conductivity.

39. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 38, wherein platinum or a platinum alloy is used as the material having good electrical conductivity.

40. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein the granules of the ceramic granulated material are coated with the material having good electrical conductivity by stirring in a diluted suspension.

41. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein the material having good electrical conductivity is applied to the granules of the granulated material using a binding agent.

42. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 41, wherein the binding agent is an organic binding agent.

43. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein the material having good electrical conductivity is applied to the granules of the granulated material via vapour deposition.

44. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein the material having good electrical conductivity is applied to the granules of the granulated material via sputtering.

Claims 45 and 46 cancelled.